

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07144 181411Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 HA-05 /052 W  
-----058061 190546Z /17

R 181242Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2187  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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FROM VATICAN OFFICE

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, IZ, VT  
SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN IRAQ

REF: BAGHDAD 0810

1. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST REFTEL WHICH REPORTS THE HOLDING  
OF THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH AND THE  
REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO THE PATRIARCH MAR DINKHA IV PRAISING  
THE SUPPORT OF THE IRAQI POLITICAL LEADERSHIP.

2. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF GOI'S  
CONTINUING EFFORT TO SPRUCE UP REGIME'S RELIGIOUS IMAGE  
FOR INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES. IN THIS CONNECTION, VATICAN  
SOURCE HAS BROUGHT TO OUR ATTENTION THAT IN THE LAST FEW  
DAYS THE GOI HAS TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS WITH RESPECT  
TO THE CHALDIAN (CATHOLIC CHURCH): IT SET ASIDE A SUBSTANTIAL  
SUM FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE GREEK CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL  
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AT BAGHDAD AND IT DECIDED TO PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS  
FROM MILITARY SERVICE TO SOME PRIESTS. IN ADDITION,  
ACCORDING TO OUR VATICAN SOURCE, TOWARDS THE END OF MARCH,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE IRAQI REPUBLIC, AHMAD HASSAN AL BAKR  
PAID A VISIT TO THE CHALDIAN SEMINARY OF BAGHDAD WHERE HE  
WAS WELL RECEIVED AND SUBSEQUENTLY GAVE ORDERS THAT THE  
GOVERNMENT PROVIDE THE SEMINARY WITH A BUS FOR THE TRANSPORT OF

STUDENTS AND EQUIPMENT FOR THE SEMINARY.

3. COMMENT: OUR VATICAN SOURCE STATES THAT THE HOLDING  
OF THE ECUMENICAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSYRIAN CHURCH AND THE  
REMARKS OF THE PATRIARCH SIGNIFIED THAT A RAPPROCHEMENT  
HAS BEEN EFFECTED BETWEEN THE PATRIARCH AND THE REGIME  
BECAUSE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HAVE, UP TO NOW, BEEN  
TENSE.GARDNER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETINGS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ROME07144  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780167-0138  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 128b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 BAGHDAD 810  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2932575  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RELIGIOUS SITUATION IN IRAQ  
**TAGS:** SHUM, IZ, VT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/128b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014